# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada

July 2003

**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**Waterfowl Committee**

**CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 9**

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service | Service canadien de la faune

Canada

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**HELPFUL TIP:**

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**Editor:**

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Victoria Corvest and Kathryn M. Dickson (CWS, National Office).

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**Comments:**

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

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Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC, G1V 4H5
Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON, M3H 5T4.
Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No.2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6B 2X3
Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2

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## Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, and a range of other interested stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produces three reports each year. The November report Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds, and thus provides the scientific basis for management. The December report Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the Migratory Birds Regulations. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting. These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations in Canada, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process for development of regulations in Canada requires that any changes be as final proposals by early March each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge about the breeding conditions and production forecasts of the current year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years, but in some cases the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes in the national approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. In this case, the Canadian Wildlife Service would issue a bulletin updating these regulations.

## Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement to have the annual hunting regulations made into law by early June each year:

- Early November – The November report, containing biological information, was distributed by CWS-HQ.
- November and December – Jurisdictions developed proposals for hunting regulations in coordination with CWS Regional Directors.
- December 13 – CWS Regions provided to CWS-HQ proposed changes to hunting regulations (with justification) for the upcoming year, as well as other information to include in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years. Descriptions of zone changes, when any, are sent by CWS Regions to the Surveyor General, for review, approval and translation.
- Early January – CWS-HQ distributed the December report, containing regulation proposals, to allow for public, inter-regional and international consultation.
- February 21 – Replies from consultation were due at CWS Regional Directors' offices, who ensure distribution to the provinces and territories.
- Mid-January through mid-February – CWS Regions worked with the provinces and territories to finalize regulation proposals.
- February 24 – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries, were sent by CWS Regional Directors to CWS-HQ.
- April through May – CWS-HQ undertook the process to prepare legal documents and obtained approvals of regulatory proposals.
- June 14 – Final hunting regulations, adjusted as necessary to account for public comment, became law.
- July 15 – Hunting regulation summaries are available at Canada Post Outlets.
- Mid-July – CWS-HQ finalized the July report containing the final proposals for hunting regulations and the hunting regulation summaries.
- End of August – Regulation consolidations are available to CWS Regions.

**Note to United States Readers**

The annual cycle of regulation development in Canada is earlier than that in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

## 2003 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS - Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2003 is provided for areas from which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these, and other, 2003 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2003 report, Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada.

### *DUCKS*

**British Columbia** ***(Breault pers. comm.)***

The Cooperative Wetland Survey is an inter-agency project initiated in 1987 that aims to characterize abundance of breeding and migrating waterfowl in the wetlands of Interior of British Columbia. The survey involves six replicated counts of waterbirds on each of approximately 400 wetlands located on private property, native, provincial and federal lands. Approximately 290 of these wetlands have been monitored consistently since 1988. For analytical purposes, those wetlands are referred to as "Trend Wetlands", as they allow long-term comparisons of waterfowl abundance over a fixed amount of habitat.

The winter of 2002/2003 was characterised by very mild temperatures and lower than average precipitation throughout southern British Columbia. The gradual thawing of the snow resulted in reduced surface runoff and May water levels at low elevation wetlands were generally the lowest observed over the last 7 years. Breeding habitat conditions were below average this year and worse than in the previous 5 years.

The total number of ducks observed on Trend Wetlands in 2003 was 4% lower than in 2002, and 9% higher than the (1988-2002) Long-Term Average (LTA). Total diving ducks were 4% lower than in 2002 and 21% above the LTA. Total dabbling ducks were 5% lower than in 2002 and 15% lower than the LTA.

The total number of duck breeding pairs was 4% lower than in 2002 and 13% lower than the LTA. For diving ducks, the number of breeding pairs was 2% higher than in 2002 and 5% higher than the LTA. The total number of dabbling duck pairs was 10% lower than in 2002 and 27% lower than the LTA.

Canada Goose total numbers were 1% lower than in 2002 and 32% above the LTA. The number of breeding pairs of Canada Geese was 10% lower than in 2002 and 17% lower than the LTA.

The counts are believed to reflect the fourth consecutive year with dry conditions in Central BC. The dry and warm conditions observed in late April and early May were likely associated with early breeding for some species and with a possible accumulation of non-breeders (both dabbling and diving ducks) escaping from poor breeding conditions further south. Poor habitat conditions, especially in isolated small seasonal wetlands, were likely responsible for the dabbling duck decreases (both for total birds and breeding pairs).

This survey targets a fixed number of permanent and seasonal wetlands and the results are not adjusted with an annual index of pond availability. Work is currently under way to present the current data in terms of waterfowl density for wetlands of different sizes and for various ecological regions of the province. This information will be linked to a provincial estimate of wetland abundance (by size class) to produce province-wide breeding population estimates.

**Prairie Canada** ***(D. Caswell pers. comm.)***

Results from the May 2003 Prairie Waterfowl Survey indicate that wetland habitat conditions are significantly better than last spring and will contribute to dramatic increases in waterfowl production in 2003 throughout the southern Prairies.

Over 3.5 million ponds were recorded in 2003, almost 145% more than last spring, and 5% above the long term (1955-2002) average. The number of breeding ducks observed this spring increased by 88% over 2002 estimates and are 3% above the long term average.

Dabbling ducks increased by more than 90%, Mallards were up by 35%, and Blue-winged Teal up by 133%, compared to the 2002 population estimates. Mallard and Blue-winged Teal remain the most numerous dabbling duck species in Prairie Canada. For the first time in a number of years, there was a dramatic response from Northern Pintails. Estimates indicate 1.2 million Northern Pintails in southern prairie Canada this year, an increase of 347% over 2002.

Diving ducks increased by 70% in 2003. Canvasbacks were up by 104%, Redhead Ducks by 53% and Lesser Scaup by 36%, in comparison to the estimates in 2002.

Unlike last year, there was not expected to be a significant "over-flight" of ducks from traditional breeding areas to more northerly habitats. This

spring, most waterfowl responded to the excellent water conditions in the southern prairies, and remained to make a very strong breeding effort.

**Eastern Canada** ***(Bordage, Bateman pers. comm.; Ross, 2003)***

The boreal region of eastern Canada has been surveyed by helicopters since 1990 as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture (BDJV) of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). From 1990-2002, trend analysis of breeding ground survey results showed significant increases range-wide for pairs of Black Ducks, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Green-winged Teal and Canada Geese. The increase for Black Ducks was seen in strata 1, 2 and 3 (Atlantic Highlands, eastern and central Boreal Shield respectively), while there was no change in stratum 4 (western Boreal Shield). Mallard trends showed significant increases in strata 1 and 4. In the Atlantic Highlands, pairs of Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks also increased significantly. There were significant declines range-wide over the period in Blue-winged Teal and Bufflehead numbers but these two species are uncommon breeders in the boreal region of eastern Canada. (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, 2001).American Wigeon declined in stratum 1, but it is not an abundant breeder there.

The helicopter survey was carried out once again in 2003, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. Spring was cold in the Maritimes in 2003. Ice-out was late but melt had progressed to near-normal in late April despite cool temperatures. Cool wet conditions continued in late April-early May and vegetation phonology was late compared to recent years. Sudden snow melt and rain resulted in some flood conditions but most wetlands did not have unusually high water during surveys.

In Quebec, last summer (2002) was very warm and record dry resulting in low waterfowl production. The fall weather in 2002 was normal but because of low production, harvest was also a record low for most waterfowl species. Winter precipitation and temperature were normal in the boreal forest but temperature was colder than normal in southern Quebec. The 2003 spring temperature and precipitation were below normal. Overall the survey conditions in May were good.

The 2003 survey of Black Ducks in central and northeastern Ontario was undertaken between 5 and 21 May. The survey period had mild to warm temperatures and no ice was encountered on waterbodies. Weather conditions were generally good. Some snow was present in the bush but all shorelines were open. Spring initially proceeded very slowly and extensive snow cover was maintained over much of the survey area into April. Central Ontario then warmed at a normal rate and ice on the wetlands was essentially gone by late in April. Northern Ontario remained cooler than average until late April at which point it rapidly warmed. Despite the slow start, there was no delay in availability of habitat to nesting waterfowl on their return. Temperatures and precipitation were generally normal throughout June. Winter was colder than in recent years and snow levels were high in most of the survey area. Spring water levels appeared slightly higher than normal.

Preliminary analyses of the 2003 survey counts are now underway. Black Duck numbers were below those of recent years in Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick, but above the 12-year average. The mean density on plots in Nova Scotia was 27.5 indicated pairs per 100km$^2$ compared to the 1990-2002 average of 25.5. In New Brunswick the mean density in 2003 was 27.6 indicated pairs per 100 km$^2$ compared to the 1992-2002 average of 22.6.

In Quebec, the 2003 estimate of American Black Duck breeding pairs in the boreal forest was lower than 2002 (Bordage, pers. comm.). Similarly, the mean density on plots in Ontario was 16.53 indicated pairs per 100km$^2$ compared to the 2002 value of 27.59 and the 1990-2002 average of 20.19 (Ross 2003). There is no obvious biological explanation for this drop such as reduced productivity or an increase in harvest level. Moreover there was a record high value recorded in 2002. The low estimate for 2003 would therefore appear to be an anomalous value possibly caused by sampling error, similar to what happened for Mallards in 2000. Counts were generally variable for the other dabbler species, most of which were in the upper ranges of the values so far encountered (Ross 2003).

## *GEESE*

**Geese and Swans in the western Canadian Arctic** ***(Hines, pers. comm.)***

*Lesser Snow Geese (Western Arctic Population)*

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest at Banks Island. The number of Snow Geese nesting on Banks Island increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002.`The remaining western arctic

Snow Geese nest at small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island migratory bird sanctuaries. The mainland populations have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. During a survey in 2003 that included the two mainland nesting areas, it was observed that there are still small nesting numbers Anderson River. At Kendall Island, high predation by grizzly bears is expected. Production of Snow Geese on the mainland will be low. At Banks Island, the largest colony in the western arctic, residents indicate that spring was somewhat late arriving, and expect that production will be average at best.

*Greater White-fronted Geese (Mid-continent Population)*

In the Western Arctic, White-fronted Geese nest mainly on the mainland. During 2003 aerial surveys in the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula area in June, all evidence pointed to a good nesting effort for White-fronted Geese, and production is likely to be at least average or above average.

*Canada Geese (Short-grass Prairie Population)*

On the Western Arctic mainland, productivity of Canada Geese normally parallels that of White-fronted Geese and thus good nesting effort and at least average production is expected. Many of the Short-grass Prairie Population of geese nest on western Victoria Island which is east of the primary survey area. There is little information available for that region at the time of writing.

*Tundra Swans (Eastern Population)*

The Mackenzie Delta Region and nearby parts of the Western Arctic mainland are one of the most important breeding areas for Tundra Swans in North America. Surveys carried out in this region in 2003 revealed a good nesting effort for swans, especially compared to the past two years of relatively poor production. At least average or perhaps above average production should be expected for Tundra Swans from this region in 2003.

**Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese *(Baranyuk, pers. comm.)***

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists who have documented a decline from 120,000 nesting birds in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes, 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because all of these birds migrate through western Canada in fall and spring and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta (BC) and the nearby Skagit Delta (WA). V. Baranyuk reported a good year in 2003 for snow geese on the island. The main colony has 25,000 to 30,000 nests (similar to last year) with high nest success (also similar to last year).

**Geese in the central Canadian Arctic *(Alisauskas, pers. comm.)***

Despite heavy snow cover over the past winter in the region of Queen Maud Gulf, a rapid melt allowed birds to begin nesting earlier than average. At Karrak Lake, the mean nest initiation date from 1991 through 2002 was 11 June for Ross's Geese, and 10 June for Lesser Snow Geese. This year nest initiation was about 7 June, and the area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese at Karrak Lake increased from 165 $km^2$ to 177 $km^2$. Similarly, at the East McNaughton colony of light geese, about 90 km east of Karrak Lake, the area of terrestrial habitat occupied by nesting geese increased from 151 $km^2$ to 173 $km^2$. At this colony there were several thousand geese that were suspected to have died from avian cholera. Avian cholera was also suspected in the deaths of several hundred light geese and some Glaucous Gulls thought to have fed on dead geese, observed at the Reference Lake colony, about 20 km west of Karrak Lake. Weather conditions during incubation were generally favourable for good nest success. Assuming such conditions persist during brood rearing, age ratios of Ross's geese and Snow Geese from Queen Maud Gulf should be about average.

**Geese in the eastern Canadian Arctic *(Mallory, Gilchrist, pers. comm.)***

The spring of 2003 was not as late as last year. Considerable amounts of open water were found off of eastern Southampton Island, eastern Foxe Basin, Hudson Strait, and eastern Baffin Island by May. Lancaster Sound had open water from Resolute Bay through to Baffin Bay by early May, and much of the region had open water through the winter. Canada Geese were numerous along eastern Baffin Island, with the first birds observed in Frobisher Bay by the second week of May. Greater Snow Geese, High Arctic Brant and Canada Geese arrived on northern Devon Island in the first week of June. A field crew present at an

eider and goose nesting colony at East Bay on Southampton Island indicated that the initiation of nesting in 2003 was about average.

**Greater Snow Geese** ***(Brousseau, Cotter, Gauthier pers. comm.)***

The preliminary estimate of the size of the 2003 spring population, counted during staging in the St. Lawrence River valley, was 678,000 ± 55,241, which is essentially unchanged from the previous year. The coverage by the spring photographic survey was excellent, with multiple aircraft used and apparent good timing. Thus, the population estimate for 2003 should be fairly good. The estimate will be verified and examined in historical context in the November 2003 report by CWS.

At Bylot Island, where there is a field crew conducting an intensive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction, spring arrived early compared to recent years. Peak nest initiation (June 9) was the earliest this year compared to the four last years (June 16 in 2002 and June 13 in 2001). At the time of writing, predation has been low despite the low population of lemmings. In general, the 2003 nesting effort seems to be very good.

**Breeding Conditions for geese in West Hudson Bay, McConnell River region, Nunavut** ***(J. Caswell, pers. comm.)***

Spring along the Hudson Bay coast near the McConnell River arrived early with Canada and Snow Geese arriving by the second week of May. Weather through the end of May was warm with temperatures reaching 20°C. Mid June was cooler with occasional rain and sleet. Ross's Geese began arriving by the third week of May. By this time the inland area around the river was 75% snow free. Lesser Snow and Ross's Geese started laying on 22 and 24 May, respectively, and local people were collecting eggs on the Ross's Goose colony by 24 May. Ross's Geese started incubating about 30 May and the first brood was seen on 15 June, with peak hatch estimated 19-22 June.

**Breeding Conditions for geese nesting in Hudson and James Bay lowlands** ***(Abraham, pers. comm.)***

Snow melt in 2003 was average to slightly later than normal in the lowlands around Hudson Bay and James Bay. After a late March snowstorm, some warming and melt occurred in the middle 2 weeks of April in the southern portion. Cold weather returned in the last week of April. The Moose and Albany rivers were open by 7 May and the southern half of the lowlands (south of Ekwan R.) was snow free by 15 May. Thaw along the Hudson Bay coast was later than normal, but not as late as 2002. Although the coast was still 95% snow covered on 15 May, the Winisk River was opening and melt occurred rapidly over the next 10 days. Canada Geese arrived in mid to late April in the south and early May in the north with a major movement about 26 April, slightly later than normal. Near Moosonee at the south end of the lowlands, eggs were being produced by April 30. On Akimiski Island egg-laying occurred the second week of May, and on the Hudson Bay coast it occurred in the third week of May. Snow Geese egg-laying at Cape Henrietta Maria also occurred in the third week of May. May and June temperatures during incubation were cold throughout the lowlands. In general, goose nesting conditions during the first half of the reproductive season were good in 2003 across the Hudson Bay and James Bay region of Ontario.

**Southern James Bay Canada Geese** ***(Walton, Ross and Hughes, 2003)***

The 2003 surveys were flown on 24-26 May under good to excellent weather conditions; Akimiski Island was surveyed on 26 May under excellent conditions. Conditions in late April and early May indicated a late spring, however snowmelt occurred quickly. Anecdotal information from the mainland near Moosonee suggests hatch occurring as early as 3 June, with preliminary information from Akimiski Island predicting hatch as early as 8 June (with a peak around 12 June). Mainland geese usually nest about one week earlier than those on Akimiski Island. Thus, timing of the survey was excellent with the mainland nesting portion likely in week 3 of incubation and the Akimiski portion in week 2. Moult migrants did not begin showing up over Moosonee until 28 May, with the majority of the flights being observed in early June.

The 2003 spring population estimate for SJBP Canada Geese was 106,511, up from 76,291 last year. The number of breeding pairs on Akimiski Island was down about 5% from 2002, the second lowest estimate since 1990. Numbers of breeding pairs on the mainland increased by 78% from last year. The estimate of non-breeders decreased on the island (-80%) but increased marginally on the mainland (8%) from 2002.

Given the excellent conditions and good timing of the survey we are confident with the results of the 2003 survey.

**Mississippi Valley Canada Geese** ***(Walton, Ross and Hughes 2003 )***

The survey was flown on 28-30 May, under good to excellent conditions. All lines were completed well before eggs began to hatch along the Hudson Bay coast (peak hatch on coastal stratum estimated around 16 June; Abraham, pers. comm.). Conditions in late April and early May suggested that this may be another late spring on the southern Hudson Bay Coast (as in 2002), however a quick snow melt enabled the geese to start nesting earlier than predicted. Preliminary nesting phenology at Burntpoint camp indicates an intermediate year between the early year of 2001 (peak hatch 10 June) and the late year of 2002 (peak hatch 29 June). Further, the snow melted quickly throughout the survey strata.

The spring population estimate was 476,966, a 12% decrease from 2002. The estimated number of nests (180,026), however, was 26% higher than in 2002. As happened last year, the earliest flocks of moult migrants were observed at Moosonee beginning around 28 May, but major movements did not occur until early June and thus are not thought to affect the estimate.

**Eastern Prairie Canada Geese** ***(Raedeke pers. comm.)***

Breeding phenology in 2003 was much earlier than last year and similar to 2001, 1999, and 1998. Range-wide, vegetation phenology and snow and ice conditions all reflected an early nesting season. Virtually no snow or ice cover remained throughout the range. Emergent and floating-leaved vegetation and leaves on deciduous trees were apparent through much of the interior and southern coastal portions of the EPP range. Dry conditions were the rule in both coastal and interior portions of the EPP range. Water levels in coastal and interior wetlands and streams were below normal.

During the first two days of flight the observers detected a visibility bias caused by an eye problem with one of the observers. This visibility bias was corrected for the remainder of the survey by switching seating arrangements. To assess the magnitude of the visibility bias, the observers randomly sampled and resurveyed 6 of the 14 transects from the first two days. This year's estimate includes two numbers. The first estimate includes the observations made when the 6 transects were resurveyed. The corrected estimate includes a correction factor that was added to pairs and singles for the remaining 8 transects from the first two days that were not resurveyed.

The 2003 estimate of 222,200 geese (± 33,000) (corrected: 229,200 ± 33,500) was similar to the estimate in 2002 (216,300 ± 26,400), similar to most years since the mid-1980s, and exceeds the EPP Plan objective of 200,000 geese. The number of geese observed in pairs (54,400 ± 10,500, corrected: 57,600 ± 11,200) was lower than 2002 (84,900 ± 13,100), and the lowest since 1998 (42,100 ± 8,300). The estimate of 61,000 single geese (± 10,000) (corrected 64,800 ± 10,700) was similar to 2002 (66,800 ± 10,700). The number of singles and pairs (115,400 ± 17,200, corrected: 122,400 ± 18,100) was down from 2002 (152,000 ± 19,100), similar to 2001 (122,200 ±17,200), and around 120,000, the 2000 EPP Plan threshold criterion for more restrictive regulations. Numbers of geese in groups increased from an estimate of 64,600 ± 20,200 in 2002 to 106,800 ± 29,700 in 2003, the second highest since 1972.

**North Atlantic Canada Geese** ***(Bateman, pers. comm.)***

The NAP breeding population continues to be surveyed by two methods each spring: the BDJV helicopter plot survey and the USFWS fixed-wing transect survey. An expanded helicopter plot survey was initiated in 2001 when it became evident that neither the original BDJV plot distribution nor the fixed-wing transects adequately covered the breeding range of this population. The additional plots were not included in the most recent analysis of BDJV data because of the few years available. Results from the BDJV plots in Statum 2 which covers a portion of the NAP breeding range, continue to show an increasing number of pairs. However, the lack of long term trend data for the NAP breeding population remains an important data gap.

**Atlantic Canada Geese** ***(Harvey, Rodrigue, Bordage, Cotter, pers. comm.; Brousseau et. al. 2003)***

The eleventh consecutive annual survey of Canada Geese in northern Quebec was conducted in June 2003. The survey covered the three regions shown previously to include the highest densities of nesting geese (interior Ungava, coastal Ungava Bay and Hudson Bay, and the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula). A fourth region in the boreal forest at the latitude of James Bay was last included in this survey in 1996, but the area was covered as part of the eastern Canada transect survey by the USFWS beginning in 2000.

Harvey and Rodrigue reported that habitat conditions indicated a relatively late spring thaw in

2003. Inland areas were 5-10% snow-covered at the time of the survey (June 13-21) and most lakes and ponds were frozen. In coastal habitat, little snow cover remained, however, many medium-large lakes were frozen.

The estimated number of breeding pairs was 156,937 (SE = 12,273), a decrease of 4.7% compared to last year. The proportion of indicated pairs observed as singles was above the 1993-2002 average, indicating a good nesting effort this year. The total population estimate was 760,268, a decline of 22% compared to last year. However, the total population estimate contains large numbers of moult migrant geese from other populations and should be interpreted cautiously.

Cotter (pers. comm.) reported that at the primary study area, near Povugnituk in northern Quebec, the season was excellent. Hatching occurred from 21 June to about 5 July, with peak hatch occurring between 24 and 29 June. Weather was good during hatching. It seemed that 2003 will be a peak year for lemmings. The preliminary estimate of nest predation rate (gulls, foxes) is about 25%. There were about 675 nests found, which gives the highest nest density since the study began. The median clutch size was about 4.5 eggs, which is at the high end of the range of values seen so far. More nests were found at each of the 7 satellite sites than were found in 2002. In the Ungava Bay region, 220 nests were found at 5 satellite study areas, and the mean clutch size was estimated at 4.39, compared to 3.99 in 2002 (Brousseau *et al.* 2003).

In the boreal forest, where Canada Geese are counted as part of an annual helicopter survey program supported by the Black Duck Joint Venture, the number of breeding pairs observed in 2003 appeared to be higher than last year, but within the range of high values observed over the past 5 years (Bordage, pers. comm). Many nests with eggs were found during the survey, which could indicate good production in that part of the range. However, the temperature and precipitation were below normal during the entire incubation period. The region covered by the BDJV surveys is at the southern limit of the nesting range of AP Canada Geese.

## Black Duck Harvest Strategy

A Canada / United States Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group has been established to make recommendations on how the two countries should approach future regulations for hunting of American Black Ducks. The group is co-chaired by the Chief of the Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Chief of the Surveys and Assessment Branch, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An adaptive harvest management methodology is being explored. Adaptive harvest management implies an approach in which uncertainty about systems dynamics are managed under a strategy that includes learning as an explicit objective, and uses feedback from any given management cycle to improve models and decision processes for future cycles. In regulating wat fowl harvest, managers face four fundamental sources of uncertainty:

1) environmental variation - represents the temporal and geographical variation in weather and other key features of waterfowl habitats;
2) partial controllability - the ability of managers to control harvest only under certain limits. The harvest from a particular set of harvest regulations cannot be predicted with certainty because of variation in weather, timing of migration, hunter effort, and other factors;
3) partial observability - the ability to estimate key population parameters (population size, survival, productivity, etc.) only within the precision afforded by existing monitoring programs;
4) structural uncertainty - an incomplete understanding of biological processes governing population dynamics. A familiar example is the long-lasting debate about whether hunting mortality of waterfowl is additive to other sources of mortality or whether populations compensate for hunting mortality with reduced natural mortality.

Adaptive harvest management is expected to reduce uncertainty and clarify the relationship between hunting regulations, harvest, and Black Duck populations. Thus, the working group study involves the construction of several population models that address different hypotheses about factors affecting the population dynamics of Black Ducks, as well as the development of a mathematical optimization process to help guide regulatory decisions. A draft report on the feasibility of using Adaptive Harvest Management for the American Black Duck is due for fall 2003, with a final report due in June 2004.

A scientific team based in the Georgia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is developing the population models. Model sets were first separated into four production and four survival submodels for a total of 16 different models. The

four factors identified as having a potential impact on Black Duck Populations were: a) under the production submodels, 1. competition with Mallards, and 2. breeding habitat changes; b) under the survival submodels, 3. compensatory or additive hunting mortality, and 4. wintering habitat changes. Population models that included breeding and wintering habitat changes were relatively ineffective compared to the other models. Therefore, the current focus is only on the four models using Mallard (competition or not) and Harvest (compensatory or additive mortality) factors.

Among the key components the working group believes which are important are: the division of the Black Duck population into breeding, wintering, and harvest area-based management units; the combination of several data sources such as the CWS helicopter survey plots with linear fixed-wing aircraft survey transects; devising the best ways to eventually integrate habitat information; and the integration of data relative to the eastern Mallard population. The solution of these technical issues will require extension of the existing methodologies for adaptive resource management. Initial population models allow for three breeding populations and six harvest areas, density dependence or no density dependence, a Mallard effect on Black Ducks and no Mallard effect on Black Ducks. These initial models are based on a population index derived from the CWS helicopter survey plot data.

The Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group intends to keep the appropriate regulatory consultation bodies in Canada and United Sates informed of progress as the adaptive management study continues. These bodies will also be informed if alternative strategic frameworks for Black Duck hunting regulations come under consideration.

Progress on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site:

http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/

## Management of Overabundant Snow Geese

*Issue*

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of Mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and of Greater Snow Geese were completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled "*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1997) and "*The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*" (Batt 1998). The working groups concluded that the primary causes of the increase of Snow Goose populations were human induced. Improved nutrition from agricultural practices and safety in refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates of Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the vegetation communities on which they and other species rely at staging areas and on the breeding grounds. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support breeding geese and companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing populations.

*Regulation*

Several management actions are being undertaken concurrently to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One action involves increasing the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of habitat conservation measures. Beginning in 1999 an amendment to the Migratory Birds Regulations created special conservation measures during which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use special methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. Beginning in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations where special conservation measures were implemented were determined through consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recently proposed adoption of special conservation measures in Ontario's Hudson-James Bay District. The feasibility and effectiveness of this will be examined over the next year.

*Evaluation*

Evaluation plans are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities. For example, across the Arctic in 2002, over 6,800 Lesser Snow Geese and 2,200 Ross' Geese were marked with neck bands, bringing the total number of birds neck-banded to 28,500 Lesser Snow Geese and 14,760 Ross Geese since 1997 (D. Caswell, pers. comm.). The main objectives are to obtain colony specific estimates of harvest and survival rates, document timing and pattern of fall and spring migration, and obtain population and production estimates. Investigations of the condition of staging and breeding habitats continued in 2002 along the west coast of Hudson Bay, where the effects of geese on habitats are well documented. Assessments were also carried out at other major Snow Goose colonies and this work continues in the summer of 2003.

The special conservation measures appear to be successful in increasing harvest rates for Snow Geese. The estimated harvest rates of adults (based on regular-season harvest in Canada and the U.S., and including the special conservation seasons which are in effect in Canada only) ranged from 12 to 14% in each of the five seasons held to date. These are much higher than the rates achieved during 1985-1997 (average harvest rate of 6%), a period of rapid population growth, and higher than harvest rates during 1975-1984 (11%) when the population was relatively small and stable (G. Gauthier, unpubl.).

For Lesser Snow Geese, the harvest rate in Canada was much less than that achieved for Greater Snow Geese. Sport hunters took about 5,000 to 7,000 additional birds in each year as part of the conservation measures. However, the continental program as a whole shows signs of success; preliminary analyses indicate that the survival rates of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese were reduced during the years of special conservation measures. Since 1999, adult survival rates at most mid-continent colonies were between 60 and 70 per cent. In contrast, the survival rate was over 80 per cent at a western colony not affected by the special measures.

*Proposal for 2004-2005*

Proposals regarding special conservation measures in 2004-2005 will be presented for discussion in the November 2003 Report on the Population Status of Migratory Game Birds and for a period of formal public consultation in the Canada Gazette.

## Hunting Regulations for the 2003-2004 Season

The regulations in effect for 2003/2004 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor in Council on June 11, 2003.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

In December 2002, it was proposed to extend the inland waterfowl season for all ducks, except Long-tailed Ducks (formerly Oldsquaw), Harlequin Ducks, eiders and scoters, and the season for Geese and Snipe, for all inland and coastal zones on the island of Newfoundland to the last Saturday in December. It was felt that this change would afford more hunting opportunity with only a slight and sustainable increase in the harvest of Black Ducks, Common Goldeneye and mergansers, and would make the closing date similar to those of adjacent parts of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There were also several changes proposed to the murre hunting zones and season dates. However, as a result of questions and comments submitted in response to this proposal, there is no regulatory amendment in 2003. Instead, these ideas will be subject to further consultation over the coming year.

### Prince Edward Island

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Nova Scotia

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### New Brunswick

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Quebec

The regulations no longer make specific mention of Black Duck x Mallard hybrids. Snow Geese are now included among the species that may be taken during Waterfowler Heritage Days.

### Ontario

Giant Canada Geese have been expanding dramatically throughout southern Ontario. In recent

years, this rise in numbers has been particularly strong in the southeast. Early and late seasons for Canada Geese have been established in many WMUs throughout the Southern District to help reduce the nuisance and crop depredation problems associated with Canada Geese from introduced flocks.

Early goose seasons, designed to harvest Giant Canada Geese are being implemented for the first time in WMUs 60A, and 61, from September 3 to 17, and for WMUs 62, 63, 64A, 66, 67, and 68, from September 10 to 26. Special late seasons are put in place for all the above-noted WMUs from January 15 to 22 and from February 22 to 28. The bag and possession limits are eight and twenty-four birds respectively. None of these seasons are available in that part of Renfrew County where Sunday hunting is permitted.

### Manitoba

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Saskatchewan

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Alberta

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### British Columbia

Over the last few years, a number of strategies including the introduction of multiple hunting seasons ("split seasons") have been implemented in the southern part of the province to increase the harvest of Resident birds from the Pacific Population of Western Canada Geese. Some adjustment of the opening and closing dates for each split season were made in Management districts 1, 2 and 3, with the goal of increasing the harvest.

### Nunavut

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Northwest Territories

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

### Yukon Territory

No substantive changes for the 2003/2004 season.

## Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

### Comprehensive Review of the Migratory Birds Regulations

Although the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed annually with regard to hunting seasons and bag limits, there are also changes needed to the main text of the regulations, to reflect recent amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention* and other issues that have arisen. In addition, because of their relatively long history, the regulations suffer from having been amended on numerous occasions. The text needs an overhaul to consolidate and clarify its content. It is also proposed to amalgamate the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (that also exist under the authority of the Migratory Bird Convention Act) with the Migratory Bird Regulations, in order to use common definitions and approaches, particularly in areas such as issuing permits.

The purpose of the review process is to clarify and improve the following policy questions, which will then guide proposed changes to the regulations.

1. What is the scope of the regulations, including the species covered, and to what area does the regulation apply?
2. How is the situation of aboriginal people reflected in accordance with co-management agreements and the revised Migratory Birds Convention?
3. How is the incidental take of migratory birds and nests addressed?
4. What is the approach towards alien species of migratory birds?
5. What are updated approaches for management of hunting (e.g. structured management with thresholds and triggers, no wastage)?
6. How is the management of authorized activities (see attached table), under permit, accomplished?

These are the main topics now under consideration through the comprehensive review of the Migratory Birds Regulations. Additional smaller issues or changes are also being examined.

Further documentation concerning the review, including information on how the public may have input into the process, will be made available.

For more information, please contact: Hélène Lévesque, Migratory Birds Conservation Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3.

| Permit topics | Changes under consideration | Reasons |
|---|---|---|
| All permits | · Specify and clarify permit conditions | · Increase fairness and coherence |
| Salvage | · Remove permit requirements for people who temporarily possess birds for compassionate, sanitary, and similar reasons as long as the birds are delivered to designated authorities | · Permit simplification, more practical |
| New Permits | · New permits for educational, rehabilitation, and zoo purposes | · Conformity to provisions of revised *Migratory Birds Convention* |
| Feeding of migratory birds that can be hunted | · Define conditions when migratory game birds may be fed, consistent with the conservation principles of the *Migratory Birds Convention* | · Tighten prohibition against baiting for hunting, while avoiding excessive permit issuance in areas where hunting is not permitted |

## Development of a Regulatory Adaptive Harvest Management Tool: The "Red-Yellow-Green" Concept

*Introduction:*

The Canadian Wildlife Service is considering, when possible and appropriate, to implement harvest management systems that specify, in advance, what management decision will be taken in what situation. This has the potential to make the rationale and specifics of regulatory changes more easily understandable and predictable for the users. It implies that detailed consultations are conducted on the overall approach, on the specifics of regime implementation, and on how changes are triggered. Consultation is then followed by several years of implementation without the need for extensive annual reviews. In some cases these systems may have the added advantage of allowing for learning about the effects of hunting regulations on population dynamics by limiting the number of variables introduced in the system. Adaptive Harvest Management is an example of such concept.

*"Red-Yellow-Green": a regulatory alternative for particular cases:*

Adaptive Harvest Management, such as is currently being considered for Black Duck harvest management, and other types of harvest management frameworks, require that predetermined harvest regimes be implemented when a trigger is reached. Implementing regulatory changes however, requires adequate standard consultations normally taking place over a period of at least 6-8 months. This delay is too long to implement AHM and other frameworks as the triggers are usually derived from breeding survey results, with the planned consequent change in harvest regime ideally to begin with the next hunting season. In this context, a regulatory alternative that would allow for a faster turnaround time while meeting the consultation requirements would be more appropriate.

*Proposed Process*

The concept of "red-yellow-green" is derived from the system used to prevent forest fires. The system defines regulatory regimes for each predetermined forest state. The "red" regime is enforced when the forest is very dry. It is a restrictive regime under which it can be prohibited to have fires anywhere in the forest, or even to camp. The "yellow" regime is moderately restrictive with camping and campfires allowed, but only in campgrounds, while the "green" places no unusual restrictions on camping or campfires. In this system, predetermined triggers (such as specific measures of dryness) direct the change from one regime to another. Users are made aware of the regulatory regime in force by signs posted on access roads.

A similar system is being contemplated for some hunting regulations, where the harvest frameworks call for consistent harvest regime changes in response to information indicative of the state of the harvested population. In this context, consultations would need to take place in order to verify acceptance of the system and of the specific harvest packages for each regime. Once in place, regulatory changes would likely not be necessary for several years. When changes to the packages, regimes or triggers are needed, consultations would be undertaken again.

Practical implementation within the framework of Migratory Bird Regulations could be achieved by describing the new system with reference to a detailed schedule. The schedule would include:

- The species to which a specific harvest framework applies.
- The number and nature of the regimes of the framework (note there could be 2 or more regimes).
- The specific packages for each regime (by province or other relevant unit).
- The triggers that command the change from one regime to another.

Another option would be to refer to a specific Framework document (e.g. Black Duck Adaptive Harvest Management Framework) that would in itself identify the species, regimes and triggers; leaving only the need for packages to be described in the schedule. This option would be possible if the document can be used as a "Standard", i.e. contains adequate details and is readily accessible.

Another important practical question is how to notify the hunters as to which regime is in force for the coming season, given that under these preset conditions, triggered changes may be declared on shorter notice than provided for by the current annual review of hunting regulations. It is envisioned that hunters would continue to receive a "Summary" of the hunting regulations when purchasing the Migratory Bird Hunting Permit. If the trigger data were available at the time of printing of the Summary, the regime in force and the detailed package would be described. If the trigger data were not available at the time of printing, all regimes with their packages would be listed with a note on how to find out which regime is in force (e.g. through local newspaper before the opening date).

If you have comments on this potential regulatory tool or related aspects, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service.

### Motion-winged and motorized decoys

Motion-winged decoys are increasingly popular for waterfowl hunting, and there are many reports of their ability to significantly increase hunter success. Because of the increasing use of such decoys, and few actual estimates of the effect on harvest rates, the Canadian Wildlife Service began a study in the fall of 2001 to evaluate hunter success. While the study is not yet completed, the preliminary results indicate a dramatic increase in success when using motorized decoys. The increase was especially evident when hunting in fields, and although success did not increase as markedly during marsh hunting, the effect was still significant (D. Caswell, pers. comm.). Final results of this study will be reported in the future. Similar research is being conducted in several US states and early results corroborate this effect on hunting success.

More information is required on the prevalence of the use of these decoys in order to understand if the increased success rate is reflected in the total seasonal harvest. It is also unclear if hunters having more success by using special decoys will spend as much time in the field hunting. The National Harvest Survey monitors total harvest and hunting activity but it cannot tease apart the success of hunters using motion-winged decoys from that of hunters using more traditional techniques. If necessary a special survey will be designed to gain further insight on the effect of motion-winged decoys on total harvest.

A Missouri survey of hunters' opinions about motorized decoys (David Graber, pers. comm.) found that 58.2% of hunters approved of the use of motion-winged decoys only if there were no affect on the season length or bag limit. Of the remaining hunters, 10% were not in favour, based on feelings about fair chase, and another 10.2% were not in favour because they felt it detracted from traditional duck hunting methods. About 9.5% of hunter surveyed were in favour of the use of motorized decoys, even if the seasons were affected. The final 12.1% had no opinion.

At this time CWS has not reached any conclusion, and will continue to evaluate the need to regulate the use of motion-winged or other motorized decoys.

## Other Amendments to the Migratory Birds Regulations

### Management of the Murre Hunt in Newfoundland and Labrador

The *Migratory Birds Convention* was signed by Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) and the United States of America in 1916. The purpose in concluding the *Convention* was to prohibit in the two countries the indiscriminate taking of birds, their nests and eggs. Particular problems which were curbed by this agreement were large scale commercial and sport hunts, as well as the taking of birds for the millinery trade.

The *Convention* protected most bird species, controlled the harvest of others, and prohibited the commercial sale of all species. The *Convention* created three categories of migratory birds: game birds (such as ducks, geese, cranes), insectivorous birds (perching birds such as robins, sparrows, wrens, and woodpeckers), and non-game birds (such as loons and seabirds, including murres). The *Convention* also established a closed season, with limited exceptions, on the hunting of migratory game birds from March 10 to September 1 throughout Canada and the United States.

The hunting of murres is a long established tradition in Newfoundland and Labrador, where the birds have been taken for subsistence purposes for hundreds of years. However, because murres are considered non-game species under the *Migratory Birds Convention*, the murre hunt became inconsistent with the *Convention* when Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949. Beginning in 1993, murre hunt seasons and bag limits were established for conservation purposes through a special Administrative Order under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*.

In order to address the gap in the *Convention* with respect to the murre hunt, as well as to resolve other issues, Canada negotiated amendments to the *Migratory Birds Convention*, known as the Parksville Protocol, in 1995. Under the terms of the Protocol, the harvest of murres by residents of Newfoundland and Labrador is authorized and will be controlled at sustainable levels in much the same manner as waterfowl harvesting is currently regulated. However, there are some differences. Under the new regulations, which came into effect for the 2000-2001 hunting season, murres may be hunted from a boat under power. At the current time, there is no plan to require the use of non-toxic shot for murre hunting. If there are demonstrated valid concerns about public health or the effects of secondary ingestion, the mandatory non-toxic shot requirement would be considered in future.

CWS has reviewed the need to require all murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. Without the Permit there is no direct way of knowing how many people hunt murres or how many birds are taken, elements that are important to any game management program to provide assurance against over-harvest and to ensure the continuation of the hunt into the future. Recognizing the importance of harvest data gathered from permit holders, CWS has introduced a requirement for murre hunters to purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit beginning in the 2001 hunting season. The total cost of the Permit is $17.00, which includes the mandatory Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp ($8.50). As this is the same Permit that is now required to hunt ducks, geese and snipe, a large percentage of murre hunters would not be affected. Wildlife Habitat Canada has agreed that additional funds derived from the sale of the Stamp to murre hunters would be earmarked for management and applied research activities related to murre conservation.

If you have any comments, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service, 6 Bruce St., Mount Pearl, NF A1N 4T3 (709-772-5585 or 709-535-0601; E-mail: cws.nfandlab@ec.gc.ca).

### Non-Toxic Shot

The *Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations* have been amended to require the use of non-toxic shot for the hunting of most migratory game birds (including ducks, geese, brant, cranes, rails, gallinules, coots, and snipe) in all areas of Canada beginning September 1, 1999. However, three species of migratory game birds – Woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves – are exempted from the ban, except in National Wildlife Areas where possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game.

The following non-toxic shot types have been approved for use in Canada: bismuth shot, steel shot, tin shot, tungsten-iron shot, tungsten-matrix shot, and tungsten-polymer shot and tungsten-nickel-iron shot.

## Amendments to Other Regulations

### Wildlife Area Regulations

It is proposed that the *Wildlife Area Regulations* be amended in the coming year to extend the boundaries of the following National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) to conserve important habitat for migratory birds and other species: Alaksen, Qualicum and Columbia NWAs in British Columbia; St. Clair, Long Point and Prince Edward Point NWAs in Ontario; Isles de l'Estuaire NWA in Quebec; and Chignecto NWA in Nova Scotia.

### Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations

It is proposed that the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* be amended in the coming year to establish Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) in New Brunswick, enlarge Isles-aux-Hérons MBS in Quebec, de-list Wascana Lakes MBS in Saskatchewan, and adjust the legal boundaries of the Anderson River MBS in the Northwest Territories.

### Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations

It is proposed that *the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations, Schedule I* (fauna and flora listed in the Appendices of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES) be amended by the fall of 2003.

## Literature Cited


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Ross, R. K. 2003. 2003 Black Duck Survey of Northeastern Ontario. Unpubl. rep. of the Can. Wildl. Serv. - Ontario Region. 7 pp.

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## Appendix A.

**2003 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory** are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/pub/summ/index.html

Newfoundland and Labrador

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

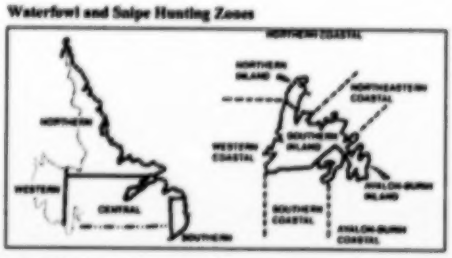
The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:


**Enforcement Coordinator**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**P.O. Box 1201**
**Lewisporte, Newfoundland**
**A0G 3A0**
**Tel.: (709) 535-0601**
**Fax: (709) 535-2743**


Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length and bag limit restrictions implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and mergansers remain in effect.

**Attention murre (turr) hunters:** In the 2003-04 season, **all** hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murres remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulation described below does not apply to murres/turrs.

**Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones**




"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turrs), and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

**CRIME STOPPERS**
Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

### OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

| Area | Ducks, including mergansers (other than Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe | Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters |
|---|---|---|
| All Coastal Zones | Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December | Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February |
| All Inland Zones | Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December | No open season |

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

| Limits | Ducks (other than mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters) | Mergansers | Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters | Geese | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a) | 6 | 6(c) | 5 | 10 |
| Possession | 12(b) | 12 | 12(d) | 10 | 20 |

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.
(c) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(d) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

### OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks and eiders), geese, and snipe | Eiders |
|---|---|---|
| Northern Labrador Zone | First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December | Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January |
| Western Labrador Zone | First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December | No open season |
| Southern Labrador Zone | Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December | Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February |
| Central Labrador Zone | First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December | Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February |

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

| Limits | Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters) | Mergansers, scoters, and eiders | Geese | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6 | 6(a) | 5 | 10 |
| Possession | 12 | 12(b) | 10 | 20 |

(a) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
(b) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

NOTE:
Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squealers.

## OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

| Area | Murres |
|---|---|
| Zone No. 1 | September 1 to December 16 |
| Zone No. 2 | October 9 to January 23 |
| Zone No. 3 | November 25 to March 10 |
| Zone No. 4 | November 1 to January 8<br>February 2 to March 10 |

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

| Limits | Murres |
|---|---|
| Daily Bags | 20 |
| Possession | 40 |

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

Prince Edward Island

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this icon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:


**Enforcement Coordinator**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**17 Waterfowl Lane**
**P.O. Box 6227**
**Sackville, New Brunswick**
**E4L 1G6**
**Tel.: (506) 364-5032**
**Fax: (506) 364-5062**


Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

**CRIME STOPPERS**

**The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.**

### OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), snipe, and geese | Woodcock |
|---|---|---|---|
| Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island | September 20(a) | First Monday of October to second Saturday of December | Last Monday in September to second Saturday in December |

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

| Limits | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) | Geese | Woodcock | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a) | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Possession | 12(b) | 10 | 16 | 20 |

(a) Not more than four may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be Mallards, Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids, or American Black Ducks.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**5th Floor, Queen's Square**
**45 Alderney Drive**
**Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**
**B2Y 2N6**
**Tel.: (902) 426-1188**
**Fax: (902) 426-4457**

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

**CRIME STOPPERS**
Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers 1-800-422-8477.

OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks)**

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) | Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers | Additional seasons for Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters in coastal waters only | Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Bufflehead | Geese | Woodcock and snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zone No. 1* | Sept. 13(a) | Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 | No additional season | No additional season | No additional season | Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 | Oct. 1 to Nov. 29 |
| Zone No. 2* | Sept. 13(a) | Oct. 8 to Dec. 31 | Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only) | Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 | Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 | Oct. 8 to Jan. 15 | Oct. 1 to Nov. 29 |
| Zone No. 3* | Sept. 13(a) | Oct. 8 to Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 | No additional season | Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 | Oct. 8 to Jan. 15 | Oct. 1 to Nov. 29 |

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day.
* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis;
"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3; and
"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

| Limits | Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters) | Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Oldsquaw, eiders, and scoters | Geese | Woodcock | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a) | 5 | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Possession | 12(b) | 10 | 10 | 16 | 20 |

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**17 Waterfowl Lane**
**P.O. Box 6227**
**Sackville, New Brunswick**
**E4L 1G6**
**Tel.: (506) 364-5032**
**Fax: (506) 364-5062**

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as the 1:00 P.M. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

**Hunting Zones**

**Zone No.1**
Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

**Zone No. 2**
The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in all areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

**CRIME STOPPERS**

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK **(No open season for Harlequin Ducks)**

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, and snipe | Additional season for Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only | Woodcock |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zone No. 1 | September 13(a) | October 15 to January 3 | February 2 to February 26 | September 15 to November 29 |
| Zone No. 2 | September 13(a) | October 1 to December 17 | No additional season | September 15 to November 29 |

(a) Waterfowler Heritage Day.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

| Limits | Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters) | Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Oldsquaw,* eiders, and scoters | Geese | Woodcock | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a) | 6(c) | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Possession | 12(b) | 12(d) | 10 | 16 | 20 |

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks.
(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks.
(c) Not more than four may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than four eiders may be taken daily.
(d) Not more than eight may be scoters and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 25, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

Canada

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**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.*

*In Quebec, these signs also identify no-hunting zones.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**1141, route de l'Église**
**P.O. Box 10100**
**Sainte-Foy, Quebec**
**G1V 4H5**
**Tel.: (418) 648-7225**
**Fax: (418) 649-6475**
**URL: www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html**

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. Hunters interested in the possibility of participating in a conservation harvest of Snow Geese should keep their 2003-2004 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in Quebec for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

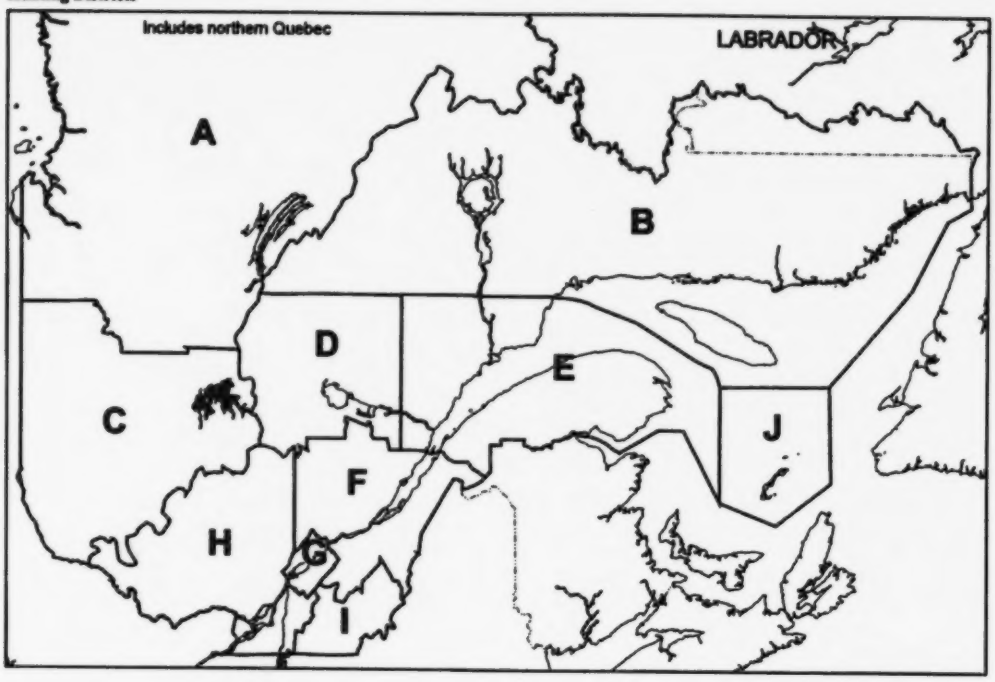
NOTE: Waterfowler Heritage Day is September 13 for districts B, C, D and E; September 20 for districts F, G, H, I and J. The opening hunting date for ducks is September 20 for districts B, C, D and E; September 27 for districts F, G, H, I, and J. The footnote concerning the daily bag and possession limits of Black Duck hybrids (Black Duck dominant) has been abolished.

OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (**No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails**)

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese, woodcock and snipe | Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin, and Long-tailed Ducks*), geese (other than Canada and Snow geese) and snipe | Canada Geese | Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks* | Coots and Gallinules | Woodcock |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | N/A | Sept. 1 to Dec. 10 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 10 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 10 | No open season | Sept. 1 to Dec. 10 |
| B | Sept. 13(d)(e) | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | Oct. 1 to Jan. 14(b) | No open season | Sept. 13 to Dec. 22 |
| C and D | Sept. 13(d)(e) | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 6 to Sept. 19(a)<br>Sept. 20 to Dec. 21 | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | No open season | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 |
| E | Sept. 13(d)(e) | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26(c) | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 | No open season | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 |
| F, G, H, and I | Sept. 20(d)(e) | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26(c) | Sept. 6 to Sept. 26(a)<br>Sept. 27 to Dec. 21 | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 20 to Dec. 26 |
| J | Sept. 20(d)(e) | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26 | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26 | Nov. 1 to Feb. 14 | No open season | Sept. 27 to Dec. 26 |

(a) In Districts C, D, F, that part of District G (only lying north of route #138 and lying south of route #132), H, and I, hunting for Canada Geese is allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District B along the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Oldsquaw are from October 1 to October 24 inclusive and from November 15 to February 5 inclusive.
(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone # 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrows and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone # 21.
(d) Waterfowl Heritage Day.
(e) In Districts F,G,H, and I, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowler Heritage Day.
* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

**Hunting Districts**




**BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC**

| Limits | Ducks | Geese (other than Snow Geese) | Snow Geese | Coots and Gallinules | Woodcock | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(g) | 5(e)(g) | 20(e) | 4(g) | 8(f)(g) | 10(g) |
| Possession | 12(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) | 10(e) | 60(e) | 8 | 16(f) | 20(e) |

(a) Not more than four Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession of eight in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F, and J.
(b) Not more than two Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts G, H, and I. Between November 1 and December 26, not more than four Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession of eight in Districts G, H, and I (only lying east of Gatineau River).
(c) Not more than two Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in Districts A, B, C, D, E, and J.
(d) Not more than one Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two in Districts F, G, H, and I.
(e) A person not required to hold a migratory game bird permit may take, in that portion of Quebec lying north of the 50th parallel of north latitude, 25 ducks, 30 Snow Geese, 10 snipe and 15 other geese (except Canada Geese) daily, with no possession limit.
(f) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily, with a possession limit of 16.
(g) Despite paragraph (e), not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowler Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) continue to apply within this limit.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2003–2004 federal permits.

**MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES**

| Area | Period during which Snow Geese may be killed | Additional hunting method or equipment |
|---|---|---|
| District A | May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) |
| District B | September 20 to December 26 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) |
| Districts C and D | April 1 to May 31(a), September 6 to September 19(a), and September 20 to December 26 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) |
| District E | April 1 to May 31(a) and September 20 to December 26 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) and bait or bait crop area(f) |
| Districts F, G, H, I | April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 26(a)(d), and September 27 to December 26 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) and bait or bait crop area(f) |
| District J | September 27 to December 26 | Recorded bird calls(e)(g) |

(a) Hunting is allowed only on farmland.
(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route #132 between Forgues Street at Berthier-sur-Mer and the eastern limit of Cap St-Ignace municipality.
(c) In District G, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 metres north of highway No. 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Mastincongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route #132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.
(d) In District G, north of Route #138 and south of Route #132, hunting is allowed only on farmland.
(e) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.
(f) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.
(g) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.

Canada

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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**Environment Canada**
**P.O. Box 5050, 867 Lakeshore Road**
**Burlington, Ontario**
**L7R 4A6**
**(905) 336-6410**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Note that hunting restrictions have been put in place for the Wolfe Island area to address concerns over the declining use of this area by waterfowl. As a result, hunting will be permitted in the Wolfe Island area only when hunters are on the island, on the shore, in the shoreline marsh, or on a dock within 20 metres of the shore.

**Hunting Districts**

1. **Hudson – James Bay District**
means that part of the Province of Ontario comprising Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°.

2. **Northern District**
Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2–24, 27–41, and 45.

3. **Central District**
Wildlife Management Units 42–44, 46–50, and 53–59.

4. **Southern District**
Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61–95.

### OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

| Area | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, Geese (other than Canada Geese) | Canada Geese* | Woodcock |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Hudson – James Bay District | Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 |
| 2. Northern District | Sept. 10 to Dec. 15 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 | Sept. 15 to Dec. 15 |
| 3. Central District | Sept. 20 to Dec. 20 | Sept. 5 to Dec. 20(a)<br>Sept. 20 to Dec. 20(b) | Sept. 20 to Dec. 20 |
| 4. Southern District | Sept. 27 to Dec. 20(i) | Sept. 2 to Sept. 17(c)(i) and Sept. 11 to Dec. 27(d)(i) and Sept. 27 to Dec. 27(e)(i) and Nov. 1 to Jan. 5(f)(i) and Jan. 15 to Jan. 22(g)(i) and Feb. 21 to Feb. 28(h)(i) | Sept. 25 to Dec. 20(i) |

(a) In Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 inclusive.
(b) In Wildlife Management Units 46 to 59 inclusive.
(c) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 70, 71, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 95 inclusive.
(d) In Wildlife Management Units 62, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64 to 69 inclusive.
(e) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 70 to 93 inclusive, and 95.
(f) In Wildlife Management Unit 94.
(g) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 62, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 93 inclusive.
(h) In Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 62, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive.
(i) No person shall hunt migratory birds on the following Sundays during the hunting season in the Southern District: from September 7 to December 21 inclusive, and January 18, and February 22. These Sunday exclusions do not apply, and Sunday hunting is permitted, in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, in the Township of Haldimand in the County of Northumberland, and in that portion in Southern District of the County of Renfrew, other than the Township of Raglan. Sunday exclusions do not apply to falconers who may hunt only ducks on Sundays from September 28 to December 14 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

| Limits | Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) | Geese* (other than Snow Geese) and Brant | Snow Geese | Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe and Common Moorhens | Woodcock |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 6(a)(b)(c) | 5(d)(e)(f)(g) | 10 | 10 | 8 |
| Possession | 12(a)(b)(c) | 10(d)(e)(f)(g) | 40 | 20 | 16 |

(a) Not more than one Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern Districts and not more than two Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson-James Bay and Northern Districts.
(b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.
(c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.
(d) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson-James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 32 inclusive and 37 to 41 inclusive from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.
(e) Not more than two Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than four Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from November 1 to January 5 inclusive.
(f) Not more than three Canada Geese may be taken daily and not more than 10 Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 inclusive and 93 from September 27 to October 31 inclusive.
(g) Three additional Canada Geese may be taken daily and fourteen additional Canada Geese may be possessed in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 60A, 61, 70, 71, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the Township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point) and 91 to 95 inclusive from September 2 to September 17 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 62, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64 to 69 inclusive from September 11 to September 26 inclusive, in Wildlife Management Units 60A to 62 inclusive, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 93 inclusive from January 15 to January 22 inclusive, and Wildlife Management Units 60A to 62 inclusive, 63 (excluding any part of Renfrew County other than the Township of Raglan), 64, 65 (excluding the United Counties of Prescott and Russell), 66 to 71 inclusive, 72A (excluding the Township of Haldimand), 72B to 89 inclusive, 90 (excluding the township of South Walsingham, which includes Long Point), and 91 to 93 inclusive from February 21 to February 28 inclusive.

* See below for simplified presentation of Canada Goose Regulations for Southern District.

## SUMMARY OF CANADA GOOSE REGULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ONTARIO

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily Limit | a | a | a | a | a | a | a | a |
| Poss. Limit | 24 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 24 | 24 |
| Dates | 2 Sept. | 11 Sept. | 27 Sept. | 1 Nov. | 27 Sept. | 1 Nov. | 15 Jan. | 15 Feb. |
| Close | 17 Sept. | 26 Sept. | 31 Oct. | 27 Dec. | 27 Dec. | 5 Jan. | 22 Jan. | 28 Feb. |
| WMU | | | | | | | | |
| 60A | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 61 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 62 | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 63 | | Except part of Renfrew Co. | | | X | | Except part of Renfrew Co. | Except part of Renfrew Co. |
| 64A | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 64B | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 65 | | X | | | X | | Except Prescott-Russell | Except Prescott-Russell |
| 66 | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 67 | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 68 | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 69 | | X | | | X | | X | X |
| 70 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 71 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 72A | Except Haldimand | | | | X | | Except Haldimand | Except Haldimand |
| 72B | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 73 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 74 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 75 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 76 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 77 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 78 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 79 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 80 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 81 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 82 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 83 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 84 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 85 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 86 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 87 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 88 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 89 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 90 | Except South Walsingham | | | | X | | X | Except South Walsingham |
| 91 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 92 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 93 | X | | X | X | | | X | X |
| 94 | X | | | | | X | | |
| 95 | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| Season Table Footnotes | c | d | e | e | e | f | g | h |

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

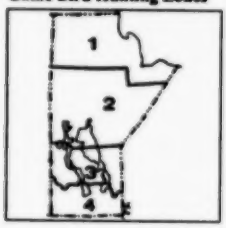
Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**
**Environment Canada**
**Suite 150**
**123 Main Street**
**Winnipeg, Manitoba**
**R3T 4W2**
**(204) 983-5263**

**Game Bird Hunting Zones**




Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

### OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

| Area | Ducks and geese | Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Ducks, Canada Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zone 1 | N/A | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(c) | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | No open season | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(c) |
| Zone 2 | Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b) | Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c) | Sept. 8 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a) | Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c) |
| Zone 3 | Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b) | Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c) | Sept. 22 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 15 to Nov. 30(c) |
| Zone 4 | Sept. 1 to Sept. 7(b) | Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(c) | Sept. 22 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 15 to Nov. 30(c) |

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Area (GHA) 6 and 6A only.
(b) Waterfowler Heritage Days.
(c) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

| Limits | Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Canada Geese | Snow and Ross's Geese | Sandhill Cranes | Coots | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 8(a) | 8(c) | 5(e)(g) | 20 | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Possession | 16(b) | 16(d) | 15(f)(h) | 80 | 10 | 16 | 20 |

(a) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(b) In Zone 4 for Residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.
(e) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.
(f) Except that in provincial GHA 25B of Zone 4, non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.
(g) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not take more than three Canada Geese daily.
(h) Except that in South Interlake Goose Management Area of Zone 4, residents and non-residents may not possess more than nine Canada Geese.

**NOTE:**

The open season for hunting of geese by non-residents in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the North limit of township 33, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, of Game Bird Hunting Zone 3 includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date to October 3 inclusive, and on and after October 4 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted only during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

**NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2003–2004 federal permits.**

## MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

| Area | Period during which Snow Geese may be killed | Additional hunting method or equipment |
|---|---|---|
| Zone 1 | August 15 to August 31 | Recorded bird calls (a)(b) |

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.
(b) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded bird calls, decoys must be white.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

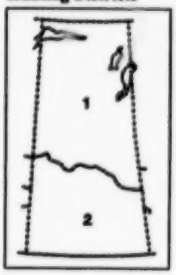
## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**
**Environment Canada**
**115 Perimeter Road**
**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**
**S7N 0X4**
**Tel.: (306) 975-4919**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

**Hunting Districts**




**District No. 1 (North)**
**Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43 and 47–74 inclusive.**

**District No. 2 (South)**
**Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 1–42 inclusive and 44–46 inclusive.**

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

Snow goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting snow geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, any migratory bird for which there is an open season may also be taken.

**NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2003–2004 federal permits.**

### OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

| District | Ducks, coots, and snipe | Geese RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN | White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN | Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN | Sandhill Cranes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d) | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d) | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 |
| No. 2 | Sept. 8 to Dec. 16(a) | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d) | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d) | Sept. 15 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c) |

(a) Falconry season is open from September 8 to December 16 inclusive.
(b) Except White-fronted Geese; season for residents of Saskatchewan for White-fronted Geese is from September 8 to December 16 inclusive.
(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.
(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

**NOTE:**
The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Saskatchewan in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North) includes only that part of each day from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 18, inclusive, and on and after October 20 geese may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, except in Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 21, and 37 to 41 inclusive, of District No. 2 (South), where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

| Limits | Ducks | Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese) | White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) | Sandhill Cranes | Coots | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 8(a) | 8(c) | 20 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Possession | 16(b) | 16(d) | 60 | 10 | 20 | 20 |

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

**Cranes**
Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

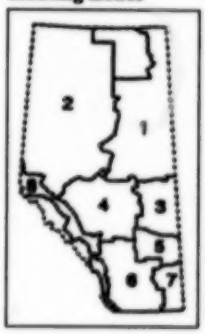
## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**
**Environment Canada**
**4999-98 Ave.**
**Edmonton, Alberta**
**T6B 2X3**
**(780) 951-8891**

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

**Hunting Zones**




**Hunters are advised to pay particular attention to the Alberta Hunting Guide to ensure that they are hunting for the correct species in the correct wildlife management unit during the permitted times and dates. Note that these zone numbers do not correspond to regions as presented in the Guide.**

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

### OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

| Area | Ducks | Snow and Ross's geese | White-fronted and Canada geese | Coots and snipe | Falconry season for ducks, coots, and snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zones 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8* | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 | Sept. 1 to Dec. 16 |
| Zones 5, 6, and 7* | Sept. 8 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 8 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 8 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 8 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 8 to Dec. 23 |

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501–506, 509–512, 514–519, 529, 530–532 and 841;
"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349, 350–360, 520–528, 534–537, 539, 540, 542 and 544;
"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202–204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260 and 500;
"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336–340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508 and 936;
"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160–163, 164 and 166;
"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302–306, 308, 310, 312 and 314;
"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148 and 150; and
"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416–418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436–442, 444–446.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

| Limits | Ducks | Snow and Ross's geese | White-fronted and Canada geese | Coots | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 8(a) | 20 | 8(c) | 10 | 10 |
| Possession | 16(b) | 60 | 16(d) | 20 | 20 |

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than five may be White-fronted Geese.
(d) Not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese.

Canada

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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003

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## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Environment Canada**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**Pacific Wildlife Research Centre**
**R.R.1, 5421 Robertson Road**
**Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2**
**(604) 940-4718**

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- To participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- Young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the Firearms Act and provincial hunting regulations;
- Participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- Mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

**Hunting Districts**

1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15.
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19.
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44.
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40.
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15.
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30.
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58.
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26.

### OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

| District | Ducks and geese | Ducks, coots, and snipe | Snow and Ross's geese | Other geese | Brant | Band-tailed Pigeons | Mourning Doves |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1 | Oct. 4 and 5(p)(q)<br>Nov. 1 and 2(b)(p) | Oct. 11 to Jan. 23 | Oct. 11 to Jan. 23 | Oct. 11 to Jan. 23(a)<br>Sept. 15 to Oct. 22(b)(h) and Dec. 15 to Jan. 25(b)(h) and Feb. 15 to March 10(b)(h) | No open season | Sept. 15 to Sept. 30 | No open season |
| No. 2 | Oct. 4 and 5(p)(r)<br>Sept. 6 and 7(j)(p)(s) | Oct. 11 to Jan. 18(g)(h)<br>Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(j) | Oct. 11 to Jan. 4(d) and Feb. 21 to Mar. 10(d) | Oct. 11 to Jan. 18(e)<br>Sept. 6 to Sept. 14(f)(h) and Oct. 11 to Nov. 30(f)(h) and Dec. 20 to Jan. 4(f)(h) and Feb. 14 to Mar. 10(f)(h)<br>Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(c)(j) | Mar. 1 to Mar. 10(h)(i) | Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(t) | No open season |
| No. 3 | Sept. 6 and 7(p) | Sept. 10 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 10 to Dec. 23 | Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(k)<br>Sept. 10 to Sept. 14(l) and Oct. 1 to Dec. 20(l) and Feb. 20 to Mar. 10(l) | No open season | Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(u) | Sept. 1 to Sept. 30 |
| No. 4 | Sept. 10(p) | Sept. 11 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 11 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 11 to Dec. 25 | No open season | No open season | Sept. 1 to Sept. 30 |
| No. 5 | Sept. 6 and 7(p) | Sept. 15 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 15 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 15 to Dec. 25 | No open season | No open season | No open season |
| No. 6 | Sept. 23 and 24(n)(p) | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m)<br>Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n) | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m)<br>Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n) | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(m)<br>Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(n) | No open season | No open season | No open season |
| No. 7 | N/A | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 | Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 | No open season | No open season | No open season |
| No. 8 | Sept. 10 and 11(p) | Sept. 12 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 12 to Dec. 25 | Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(o)<br>Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(c) and Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(c) and Feb. 21 to March 10(c) | No open season | No open season | Sept. 1 to Sept. 30 |

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese only.
(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(c) For Canada Geese only.
(d) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.
(e) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese only.
(f) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese only.
(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.
(h) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.
(i) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.
(j) Provincial Management Unit 2-11 only.
(k) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive for White-fronted and Canada geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29, 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive for White-fronted Geese only.
(l) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, and 3-26 to 3-29 , 3-36 and 3-37 inclusive and for Canada Geese only.
(m) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.
(n) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.
(o) For White-fronted Geese only.
(p) Waterfowler Heritage Day.
(q) For ducks, Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 1-3 and 1-7 to 1-15 inclusive, for Canada Geese.
(r) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for Ducks and Canada Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.
(s) For ducks and Canada Geese only.
(t) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive only.
(u) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive only.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

| Limits | Ducks | Geese | Coots | Snipe | Band-tailed Pigeons | Mourning Doves |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 8(a)(c)(e)(h) | 5(g)(i) | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Possession | 16(b)(d)(f)(l) | 10(h)(j) | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 |

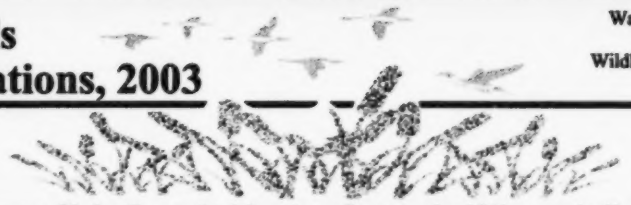
(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.
(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.
(c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.
(d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.
(e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.
(f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.
(g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.
(i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese can be taken daily.
(j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese can be in possession daily.
(k) Not more than two may be Harlequins.
(l) Not more than four may be Harlequins.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

Nunavut

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2003



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

## Summary

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**
**Environment Canada**
**5204 50th Avenue, Suite 101**
**Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2**
**(867) 669-4730**

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season. **NOTE: Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2003–2004 federal permits.**

### OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

| Area | Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe |
|---|---|
| Throughout Nunavut(a) | September 1 to December 10(b) |

(a) Except that the open season for Canada Geese on any of the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, is September 6 to September 24.
(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese, and, if decoys are also used, they must be white. While so doing, you may also take any migratory bird for which there is an open season.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

| Limits | Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 25(c)(g) | 8(c)(g) | 15(b)(e) | 5(a)(b)(e) | 25 | 10 | 10 |
| Possession | No limit(d)(h) | 16(d)(h) | No limit(b)(f) | 10(a)(b)(f) | No limit | No limit | 20 |

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.
(b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than two Canada Geese may be taken daily, and not more than four may be possessed.
(c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks.
(d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks.
(e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, three Canada Geese, and five other geese.
(f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 50°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, 10 Canada Geese, and 10 other geese.
(g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Blue-winged Teal.
(h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks and four Blue-winged Teal.

**NOTE:**
No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:**
**CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**

Northwest Territories

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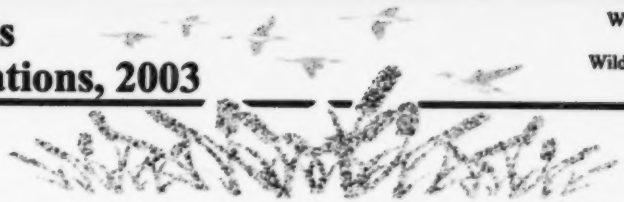

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**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**
**Environment Canada**
**5204 50th Avenue**
**Suite 101**
**Yellowknife, NT**
**X1A 1E2**
**(867) 669-4730**

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in all areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

| Area | Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe |
|---|---|
| Throughout the Northwest Territories | September 1 to December 10 |

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

| Limits | Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA | Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 25 | 8 | 15 | 5(a) | 25 | 10 | 10 |
| Possession | No limit | 16 | No limit | 10(a) | No limit | No limit | 20 |

(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

**NOTE:**
No person shall hunt earlier than one-half hour before sunrise or later than one-half hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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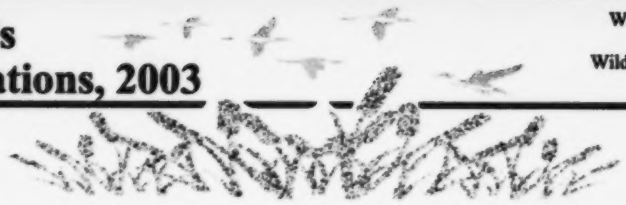

The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator**
**Canadian Wildlife Service**
**91782 Alaska Highway**
**Whitehorse, Yukon**
**Y1A 5B7**
**(867) 667-4597**

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada for migratory game bird hunting except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions. For more information about the non-toxic shot regulation, visit our website at http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

**Hunting Areas**

Northern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°.

Southern Yukon Territory: All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 66°.

### OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

| Area | Ducks | Geese | Sandhill Cranes | Rails and coots | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Yukon Territory | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | No open season | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 |
| Southern Yukon Territory | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 | No open season | Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 |

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

| Limits | Ducks | Geese | Sandhill Cranes | Rails and coots | Snipe |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daily bags | 8(a) | 5(b) | 2 | 0(c) | 10 |
| Possession | 24(a) | 15(b) | 4 | 0(c) | 30(d) |

(a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.
(d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

**NOTE:**
No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

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